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16. (Amended) A reproduction method comprising the steps of:
reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a
number of frames comprising said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame
data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image; and
processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of
frames reproduced in said reproducing step.

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17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the medium comprises a
magnetic disk.

18. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the multi-frame data
comprises compressed data.

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 13 to 18, the
independent claims being Claims 13 and 16. Claims 13 and 16 have been amended herein.

In the Official Action dated January 10, 2001, Claims 13 to 18 were rejected
under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,931,879 (Koga).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the
above amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed.
Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent Claims 13 and
16 have been amended herein to recite more clearly various novel features of the present

invention, and to distinguish more clearly the present invention over the cited art. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel reproduction apparatus and method of reproducing multi-frame data from a medium. In one aspect, as now recited in independent Claim 13, the present invention relates to a reproduction apparatus comprising reproduction means for reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames constituting the multi-frame data are recorded, where the multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in a single image; the reproduction apparatus further comprises processing means for processing the multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced by the reproduction means.

In a similar aspect, independent Claim 16 relates to a reproduction method comprising the step of reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames comprising the multi-frame data are recorded, where the multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in a single image; the method further comprises the step of processing the multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced in the reproducing step.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made.

The Koga '879 patent relates to an image processing system for recording or reproducing an image signal sequence which has been encoded by employing two predictive coding methods and combining the results of those methods, and discloses a system and method for recording a sequence of coded signals on a recording medium, such as a CE-ROM. However, Applicant submits that the Koga '879 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-described features of the present invention. Rather, Applicant submits the Koga '879 patent merely discloses a method for compression processing of motion image data, including inverse reproduction and special reproduction of the image data. Applicant submits that the Koga '879 patent fails to recognize or address any method for processing multi-frame data which is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in a single image, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

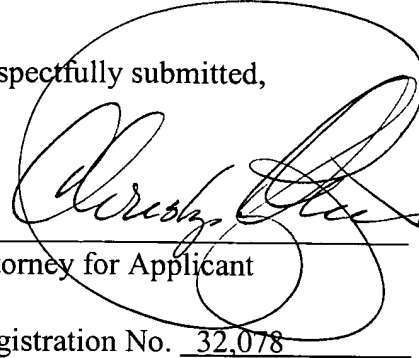
For the above reasons, Applicant submits is that independent Claims 13 and 16 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 14, 15, 17 and 18 depend from Claims 13 and 16, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek B. [unclear]", is written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

13. (Amended) A reproduction apparatus comprising:

reproduction means for reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames constituting said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image;
and

processing means for processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced by said reproduction means.

16. (Amended) A reproduction method comprising the steps of:

reproducing data from a medium on which multi-frame data and data of a number of frames comprising said multi-frame data are recorded, wherein said multi-frame data is data for displaying a plurality of pictures in one image; and

processing said multi-frame data on the basis of the data of the number of frames reproduced in said reproducing step.